



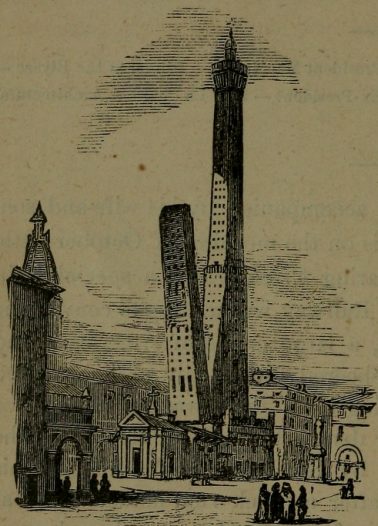
## CHAPTER VI.

Crossing the Channel — Boulogne — Paris — President MacMahon — Dinner at the Elysee —  
The American Banquet — Interviewing the Ex-President — Pere La Chaise — Architectural  
Beauties of Paris — The Mackay Banquet.

**G**ENERAL GRANT, accompanied by his wife and son, left London for Paris on the morning of October 24th. At the station at Charing Cross, where a special train of the South-Eastern Railway was waiting to convey the party to Folkestone, a large crowd of Americans and Englishmen had gathered, who cheered him lustily as he stepped out of his carriage. In the waiting room there was an abundance of hand-shaking, and, after further demonstrations by the crowd, the General and party, accompanied by Sir Edward Watkin and his guests, boarded the train, which, after a quick run, landed them at Folkestone within a few minutes of noon. Here another demonstration took place, about two thousand people conducting the party from the railway station to the wharf, where the special yacht "Victoria" was waiting to carry them across the usually troublous waters of the English Channel. On this occasion, however, the sea's surface moved only with a gentle swell. The General paced the deck, enjoying his cigar, and making himself acquainted with the interesting points and scenery along the southeastern coast of England, made memorable by the landing, centuries before, of William the Conqueror, and the bloody battle of Hastings which followed. Nearing the French coast, the General's eye was directed to the sunny shores of the site of Napoleon's Boulogne camp, where the Austerlitz army so

long prepared for an invasion of England, which never came off. Thus pleasantly did the General accomplish his journey from Folkestone to Boulogne, which was reached at a quarter to 2 o'clock. The arrival of the great American "warrior" had been anticipated by the Boulogne populace, who turned out in crowds to greet him. The Sub-Prefect of the department did the honors of the occasion. In the name of the Marshal President and of the French people he

welcomed General Grant to the shores of France, a sentiment which the latter acknowledged by saying that he had long cherished the wish to visit France, and that he was delighted at the accomplishment of his desire. M. Hoguet, the Senator representing the department of Pas de Calais, also welcomed the General in a speech full of sympathy and kindly feeling. On the way to Paris the General noted the character of the scenery, and was much struck by the wonderful agricultural resources of the country which were revealed as the train rushed along through the autumnal fields. The great French Capital was reached at a quarter



THE ASINELLI AND GARISENDA TOWERS,  
BOULOGNE.

to 8 o'clock, when General Noyes, the American Minister, General Torbert, the Consul-General, and the Marquis d'Alzac, first Aide-de-Camp to the Marshal President, whose duty it is to introduce ambassadors, entered the car. In the name of the President of the French Republic, the Aide-de-Camp tendered General Grant a cordial welcome. Generals Noyes and Torbert greeted him warmly. Both of these gentlemen were old soldiers. General Noyes, who had left a leg on a Georgia battle field, had won distinction as a soldier in the civil war, in which conflict, too, General Torbert had



commanded a division under General Sheridan. Among other Americans present at the station to greet their former President, were General Meredith Read, from Greece; Ex-Minister Partridge; Admiral Worden; the bankers Seligman, Winthrop and Munroe; Dr. Johnson; Dr. Warren, and the representatives of the leading American Journals. A richly carpeted and decorated *salon* had been prepared at the station for the reception of the distinguished party, into which the ladies of the party, conducted by General Torbert, passed. On their way to the carriages, a gallant French journalist approached the party and presented Mrs. Grant with a magnificent bouquet. The party then drove to the Hotel Bristol, where a handsome suite of rooms had been prepared for their reception. Here the General had an early dinner, followed by a soothing cigar, which, after the fatigues of the day, was especially enjoyable, and the party retired for the night early.

The morning of the following day opened dismally. Rain fell in torrents and with a persistency that gave but little hope of its cessation. During the morning General Grant called upon his bankers, Messrs. Drexel, Hayes & Co., 31 Boulevard Haussmann. Upon his return, a multitude of visitors, including Diplomats, Ambassadors, and Americans, began to arrive, and continued to come until noon. The most eminent men of France were among the callers. At two o'clock General Grant, Mrs. Grant, and Jesse Grant, with Minister Noyes and the Secretary of Legation, drove to the Elysee through a pouring rain. President MacMahon, the Duchess of Magenta, and the Duke Decazes, received the General most cordially. The Duchess did everything in her power to render the occasion agreeable. General Grant wore a plain evening dress, calling upon the official head of the French people simply as any American citizen properly introduced might. President MacMahon said that he was truly glad to welcome so eminent a soldier and citizen to France. He offered to open the military establishments to his inspection, and to furnish him means to know everything concerning military affairs in France. General Grant accepted the offer, and, in brief, replied that the opportunity of expressing to the Chief Magistrate of France the friendly sentiments entertained throughout the length and breadth of America toward the French people, was equally pleasing to him. The inter-

view was entirely informal and exceedingly cordial. President MacMahon extended and General Grant accepted an invitation to dine at the Elysee on the following Thursday. The party re-entered their carriage, and reached the Hotel Bristol about three o'clock. At four o'clock the committee of resident Americans, composed of Consul-General Torbert, Dr. T. W. Evans, bankers Seligman, Munroe and Winthrop, Dr. Johnson, Mr. John J. Ryan, and the Rev. Dr. Hitchcock, called to invite General Grant and family to a grand banquet to be given in his honor by the American residents of Paris upon any date the General might see fit to appoint. General Grant named Tuesday, Nov. 6th, thanking the Committee for the honor conferred upon him by his own countrymen in a foreign land. In the evening General Grant, accompanied by a personal friend, took a long walk around the Tuileries, Palace Royal, Place de la Concord, and the boulevards, for two hours.

On the 27th of October the Paris newspapers sent forth interviewers to learn the Ex-President's views of the political situation in France, which had just passed through an exciting struggle, in which Republicanism had achieved a brilliant triumph. The situation of affairs was still very delicate, however, and the General declined to give any views upon the subject; at the same time he expressed himself ready to converse upon any other topics, and the reporters, disappointed of an expression of political opinion, were fain to be content with the General's early impressions of France, which, he stated, were, that it wore a prosperous, well-ordered and happy aspect. On the 28th of October the General was visited by President MacMahon, who invited him to the opera, by Vice-Admiral Pothan, the Count de Paris, the Duchess Decazes, and a number of other notables.

On the evening of the 29th of October came off the official banquet and reception given by United States Minister Noyes to the Ex-President, which proved one of the most delightful among the many fetes given him since his arrival in Europe. The banquet was a superb effort of Parisian culinary skill. Universal regret was expressed at the absence from it of Marshal MacMahon, who declined on the ground of having recently declined to be present at several diplomatic dinners, particularly that given by the Russian ambassador. He, how-





PARK OF BOULOGNE, NEAR THE GROTTO

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ever, attended the reception later in the evening. Twenty-two guests were invited, so that, with the host and hostess, there were twenty-four at table. They were seated in the following order :

At the right centre of the table sat Mrs. Noyes. On the lady's right were General Grant, Mme. Berthaut, M. Caillaux, Minister of Finance, M. Brunet, Minister of Public Instruction, M. Voisin, Prefect of Police. On Mrs. Noyes' left were Duke Decazes, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mme. Voisin, Gen. Berthaut, Minister of War, M. Paris, Minister of Public Works, General Marquis d'Alzac, Aide-de-Camp to Marshal McMahon. At the left centre of the table sat General Noyes, United States Minister. On his right were Mrs. Grant, Duc de Broglie, President of the Council, Keeper of the Seals, and Minister of Justice, Miss Lincoln, M. Ferdinand Duval, Prefect of the Seine, Mr. Jesse R. Grant. On the left of General Noyes were the Duchess Decazes, M. de Fourtou, Minister of the Interior, Miss Stevens, Viscomte de Meaux, Minister of Commerce, M. Mollard, Introducer of Ambassadors. At one end of the table sat Lieut. De La Panouse, Staff Officer of the Marshal. At the other end sat M. Vignaux, Assistant Secretary of the Legation.

The banquet passed off agreeably but without any incident worthy of note, and, at about 9 o'clock, the general reception began. A long line of carriages extended far up the avenue Josephine toward the Arc de Triomphe. The guests were received by General Grant, Mrs. Grant, and their son, General and Mrs. Noyes, Consul-General Torbert and Secretary Vignaux making the introductions. Mrs. Grant was dressed in a costume of heavy white satin, Mrs. Noyes appearing in a similar dress. General Grant and Minister Noyes wore a plain evening dress. General Torbert, however, appeared in the uniform of a Major-General. The rooms, as the guests arrived, became perfect gardens of lovely colors. Brilliant uniforms, diplomatic orders, and decorations mingling with the sheen of silks and satins, made up a wonderful picture. Marshal MacMahon arrived early. He wore a plain evening dress, with the ribbon of the Legion and a breast covered with orders. He seemed in excellent health and spirits, not showing the slightest trace of the long parliamentary struggle he has been engaged in. The Marshal stood for nearly an hour beside





PARK MONCEAUX, PARIS.



General Grant occasionally joining in the conversation, and receiving the congratulations of the members of the Diplomatic Corps and the numerous brilliantly uniformed officials who thronged the apartments. As the two renowned soldiers stood side by side, one could not help contrasting them. Marshal MacMahon's ruddy, honest, Celtic face, white mustache, and white hair, recalled the poet's figure of "a rose in snow." Grant, calm and reserved, wore the same imperturbable face so well known at home. MacMahon seemed all nerve and restlessness. Grant looked all patience and repose. The reception drew together the largest assembly of the American colony known in years, and they compared favorably with the many European nations represented there.

On Wednesday, the 31st of October, the General passed the day in visiting several objects of interest, among them the works where Bartholdi's statue of Liberty, intended to be raised on Bedloe's Island, in New York Harbor, was in course of construction. In the evening he attended the opera.

On the 1st day of November, President MacMahon gave a dinner at the Elysee in honor of the Ex-President. Among the distinguished guests invited to meet the General were the Dukes de Broglie and Decazes, General Berthaut, Viscomte de Meaux, MM. Fourtou, Caillaux and Brunet, Admiral Glicquel des Touches, all the members of the Cabinet, the Marquis d'Alzac, M. Mallard, the members of the Marshal's military household, Mrs. Grant, Minister Noyes and wife, General Torbert and wife, Mrs. Sickles. General Grant sat on the right of President MacMahon, and Minister Noyes was seated between Mrs. Sickles and Mrs. Torbert. The banquet was a very brilliant affair. After dinner, General Grant and President MacMahon had a long conversation in the smoking-room, M. Vignaud, of the American Legation, acting as interpreter. During the chat, the Marshal invited the General to take breakfast with him in a friendly way and also to witness some of the sittings of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies. The General accepted the invitations, and at the conclusion of the banquet expressed himself as delighted with the warmth and cordiality with which he had been received.

On the following day, known in Paris as the *jour des morts*, General





BUTTES CHAUMONT, PARIS.

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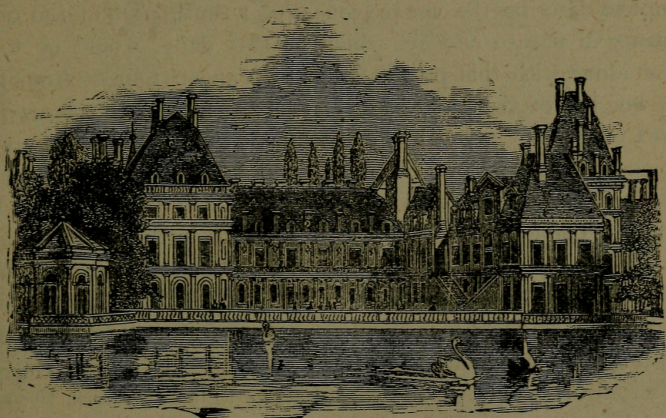


Grant drove out to see the cemeteries. He spent considerable time in examining them, and was much struck with the exquisite taste displayed by the people in the decoration of the graves, which on this day is done by all who have friends among the departed. On this day business and politics are forgotten, and thousands of citizens clad in holiday attire throng the cemeteries, to strew floral tributes upon the graves of their dead relatives and friends. It was in anticipation of this event that General Grant, when he called upon Madame Thiers, a day or two previous, had presented her with a crown of flowers to place upon the grave of the dead President Thiers, her late husband.

On the 5th of November the General received visits from Madame MacMahon and her son, De Talleyrand-Perigord, a descendant of the Great Talleyrand, and Admiral Glicquel des Touches, Minister of Marine. On the evening of November 6th, occurred the banquet given by the American residents of Paris, in honor of their Ex-President. The affair began at eight o'clock, at which time seven tables were occupied by three hundred and fifty guests. At a semi-circular table raised above the others, were Ex-President Grant, Minister Noyes, Consul-General Torbert, M. Vignaud, of the American Legation, Jesse Grant, Marquis de Rochambeau, M. de LaFayette and Mesdames Grant, Noyes, Stevens, Lincoln and Sickles. Other guests occupied six parallel tables presided over by members of the Banquet Committee, viz.: Dr. Johnston, Dr. Ryan, Col. Evelyn, the Rev. Dr. Hitchcock, Mr. Vanburghen and Mr. Woods. The decorations of the banqueting hall were superb, a noticeable feature of the ornamentation being a portrait of General Grant, contributed by the Franco-American Union, which, adorned with flags, hung over the principal table. A band stationed in the gallery played at intervals, and vocal music was furnished by the Director of the Italian opera. The toast of the evening, "Our Guest, General Grant," was proposed by Mr. Noyes, chairman of the banquet, in a complimentary speech, to which the General made a suitable response. In reply to the toast of "France," M. de LaFayette said that France duly appreciated the great leader and citizen who honored her by his visit. He remarked also that General Grant quitted power solely to bow before the laws



of his country. He thanked him for visiting France, because he was a great example for her, and because France gained from close inspection. In conclusion he alluded to the Revolutionary War, and expressed the ardent wish that the French and American Republics should never be separated, but form an indissoluble union for the welfare, liberty and independence of the people. The Marquis of Rochambeau also spoke in eulogy of General Grant, and after a few more speeches the company adjourned to the drawing room.



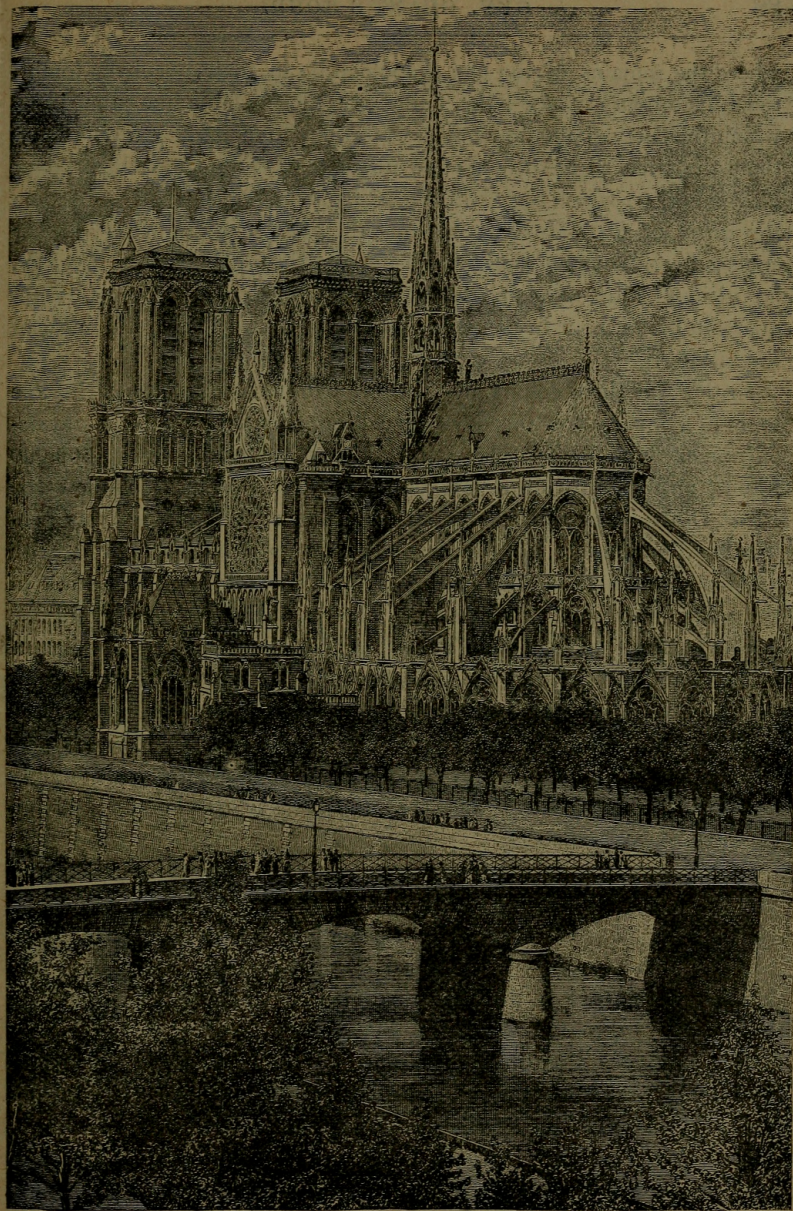
CHATEAU OF FONTAINEBLEAU.

A visit to the Italian Opera, on the invitation of M. Escudier, its director, was made on the evening of November 7th. The beautiful opera house was splendidly decorated in honor of Grant's presence. The American escutcheon and flags were visible on the facade, and the city of Paris lent its collection of American flowers and plants to decorate the passage of honor by which the Ex-President entered. Here he was received by M. Escudier, with all the honors. On the General's entrance to the box, the orchestra struck up, "Hail, Columbia," and the crowded and brilliant audience rose to its feet. Between the acts General Grant smoked a cigar, and afterwards promenaded in the *foyer*, accompanied by M. Escudier. The crowds regarded him with deep interest, but, with characteristic politeness, abstained from following him, or becoming unpleasantly demonstrative.

This was among the last of the brilliant series of events which occupied the few days immediately following General Grant's arrival at the gay French capital; and now, undisturbed by the necessity of receiving and returning the polite attentions of the great people who had striven to do him full honor, the General settled down to inspect and enjoy the beauties of Paris, just as would any other American citizen who had just arrived there from his native land. To follow the Ex-President in his wanderings about the gay capital, and to attempt to describe the attractiveness of a tenth part of the objects of beauty in nature and art which he saw daily, would be to fill a volume alone with this portion of his European tour. Among the many wonders of the architectural art, none impressed the conqueror of the Confederacy more than the beautiful Arc de Triomphe, which, commenced by the First Napoleon as a monument of the deeds of himself and the *grande armee*, was finished thirty years later by Louis Philippe. The grandest structure of the kind in the world, it rises in harmonious proportions, from a base of 143 feet by 73 feet, to a height of 162 feet. Upon its inner walls are inscribed the names of 384 generals and 96 victories. Sculptured upon it are four groups of colossal figures, which are full of life.

In a tour of inspection of the famous churches of Paris, the cathedral of Notre Dame, a beautiful cruciform edifice, having a length of 390 feet, a width of 144 feet, and a pair of massive towers 240 feet in height, claimed much attention from the party. The immense church of St. Genevieve, better known as the Pantheon, and distinguished for its Corinthian portico of columns sixty feet high; the church of St. German l'Auxerrois, from whose belfry was given the signal of the massacre of St. Bartholomew; the church of the Madeleine, which stands on a raised platform which is reached at either end by a flight of twenty-eight steps; the churches of St. Clothilde, St. Sulpice, St. Roch, all of them beautiful specimens of architecture, and each possessing some special noteworthy feature, were in turn visited by the tourists. The Louvre, with its wonderful collection of paintings; the Champs Elysees, with their profusion of trees, flowering plants and shrubs, lovely promenades, cafes, concerts, and a thousand other charms to woo people to their open-air delights; the Invalides,





NOTRE DAME, PARIS.

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where the remains of the first Napoleon lie in their porphyry tomb ; the Luxembourg palace ; the Tuileries ; these were among the sights which the party gladly devoted day after day to seeing. And in seeing them the time slipped by wonderfully fast, and on came the 21st of November, on which day the General had engaged himself to become the guest of Mrs. Mackay, the wife of "Bonanza" Mackay, at her splendid residence on the Rue Tilsit. On the afternoon of that day, he visited Prince Orloff, the Russian ambassador, passing three-quarters of an hour in conversation, in which the Prince did most of the talking.

In the American colony the Mackay banquet and ball was the sole topic of conversation for days preceding and subsequent to its occurrence. The house where the affair took place cost 1,500,000 francs, and the furniture 500,000 francs. It looks out upon the Place D'Etoile, and is a splendid residence. The garden was brilliantly illuminated and decorated with national flags, and with emblems set in thousands of gas-jets. The orchestra, consisting of thirty-six musicians, was stationed on a pavilion built out from the house in front of the Rue Tilsit. A dozen footmen, in liveries of crimson and gold, lined the entrance and stairway. The carriages occupied the causeway in front. The vestibule, staircase and passage-ways were profusely decorated with flags and beautiful flowers. The rooms were magnificent. Everything that money could supply and elegant taste select was there to add to the beauty and impressiveness of the scene.

There were covers for twenty-four, and the guests were General Grant and family and the members of the American Legation and Consulate and their families. There were no unofficial Americans present at the dinner. The *menu* was inscribed on small silver tablets, as in the case of the famous dinner to Senator Sharon at San Francisco.

After dinner a grand reception and ball took place, at which three hundred guests were present. Among the guests were the Marquis de Lafayette, MM. de Rochambeau and De Bois Thierry, the Duc de Rivoli, the Duc and Duchess de Boano, the Duc and Mlle. Ribon de Trohen, Comtess de Leon Serrurier, De Montferraut, De Divonns



PLACE DE LA CONCORDE.



and Excelmans, the Baronne de Lort de Gleon, Barons Houbeyran and Reinach, and Vicomtes De Villestrux and Marchand, the Duke Decazes, Senator Laboulaye, MM. Henri Martin and Leon Say, Mme. Guizot, Mr. and Mrs. Seligman, and M. Cernuschi.

The American colony was largely represented, and the number of beautiful women was very remarkable; their costumes, too, displayed extraordinary taste, elegance and richness. The dancing commenced early and continued till 4 o'clock in the morning.

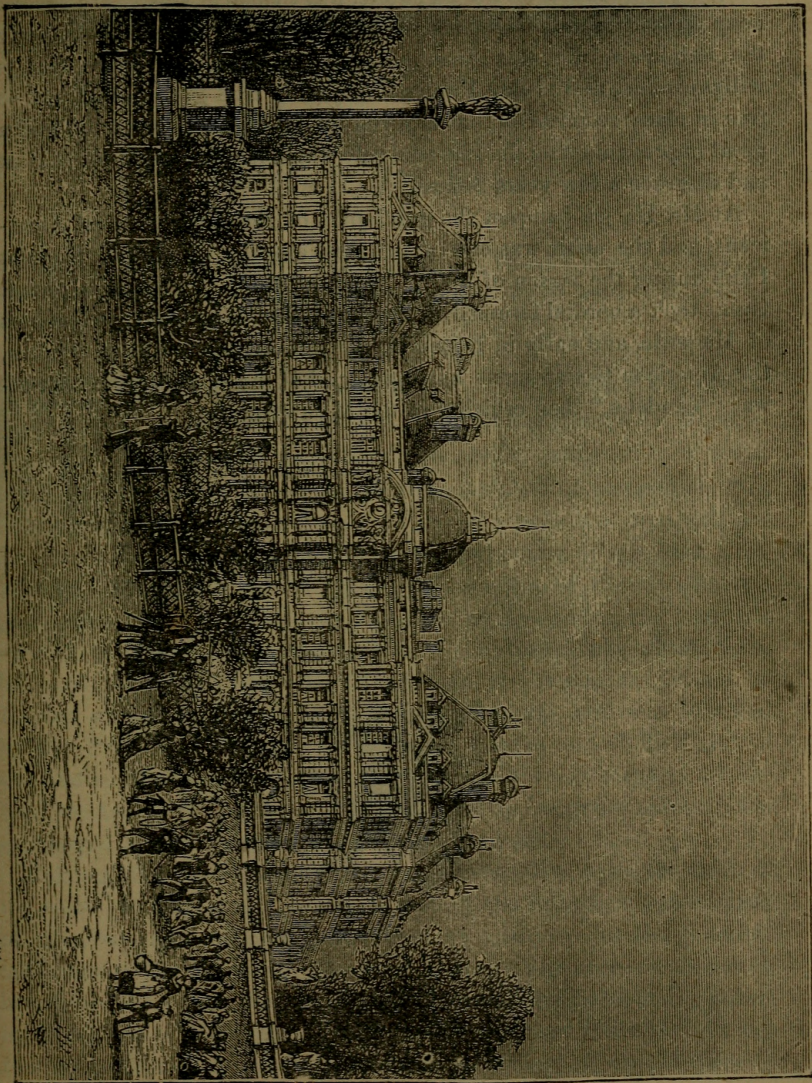
On the 27th of November, the General was given a grand dinner by M. Emil de Girardin, at which he met some of the leading French statesmen. Among the guests were Minister Noyes, Mr. Hitt, MM. Gambetta, Grevy, Renault, De Lesseps, Waddington and Vignaud. M. de Girardin proposed General Grant's health. The General responded, and drank to the prosperity of the French Republic, saying he hoped it would attain the result which Americans had endeavored to attain, namely, the regime of liberty accessible to everybody. Gambetta, who since that time has become the central figure of French politics and the successful champion of French republicanism, proposing the health of M. de Girardin, thanked him for affording him an opportunity to sit at the same table with the Ex-President of the United States. He spoke with praise of General Grant's political career, and showed how the General, obedient to the laws of his country, while he understood the importance and dignity of the army, never permitted it to assume supremacy over the civil power. Gambetta concluded as follows: "France, notwithstanding her unmerited misfortunes, remains great and generous, and attached above all to liberty."

A farewell banquet given to Ex-President Grant by Mr. Harjes, the eminent Parisian banker, at his residence, on the evening of November 30th, was the last of the brilliant series of festivities with which the free-hearted and generous Parisians strove to do him honor. The number of entertainments which were given for his special benefit was extraordinary, especially in view of the fact that the country was all the time in the throes of a great political upheaval, the result of which was to be either the triumph or defeat of republicanism. The champions of free government knew that the voice of the people was



THE PALACE OF THE LUXEMBOURG.

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for the perpetuation of the Republic, but their fear was that a second coup d'etat might deprive them of the results of their choice. Happily the nation's verdict was given in such an unmistakable shape that its will prevailed, and to-day France is enjoying free government, not so free in many respects as that enjoyed by American citizens, but still a great improvement on the Imperial rule which led the nation into defeat and disgrace a few years before.

At Mr. Harjes' banquet the gentlemen of the party were all Americans, and the affair was one of the most elegant which took place at Paris during the season of 1877. On the 30th of November, General Grant took a cordial farewell of President MacMahon and the Duchess of Magenta, and early in December he left for the south of France, the American Government having placed at his disposal the man-of-war "Vandalia," then cruising in the Mediterranean.







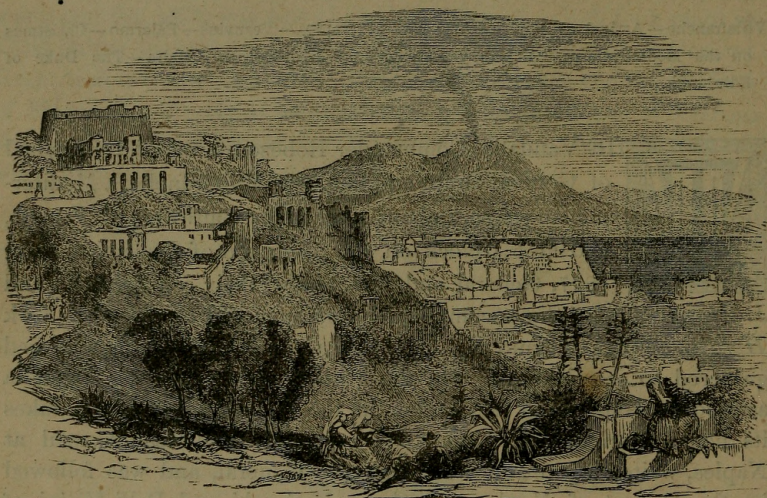
## CHAPTER VII.

Villefranche—Arrival at Naples—The Bay of Naples—Vesuvius—Palermo—Christmas on the Mediterranean—A Happy Anniversary—Mount Ætna—Malta—The Duke of Edinburgh.

**T**HE *Vandalia*, Commander Robeson, awaited the arrival of General Grant and family in Villefranche, a Mediterranean seaport about nine miles southwest of Verona, and at 5 o'clock on the afternoon of December 13th, 1877, General and Mrs. Grant, their son Jesse R., and J. Russell Young, the accomplished correspondent of the *New York Herald*, embarked amid the cheers of a number of friends who had gathered to see them off. On the 17th of December the *Vandalia* arrived off Naples and cast anchor in the beautiful bay which takes its name from the city. B. O. Duncan, the American Consul at Naples, waited upon and welcomed the General, and was followed by the Prefect of Naples and Generals Sacchi and Palli-Vicini, of the Italian Army, who, with their staffs, paid their respects to the Ex-President. While these amenities were in progress, salutes were exchanged by the *Vandalia* and the fortifications.

Resting after their journey, the party were able, from the deck of the vessel, to take in at a sweep of the eye the full scene before them of city, bay, and volcano—considered by many to be the grandest landscape in the old world. In front of them, just across a stretch of beautiful blue water, the city clustered round the base and climbed up the slopes of hills gently rising to the eastward; to the right lay the bay itself, and across its horse-shoe form loomed up the famous volcano of Vesuvius, only a light smoke from which indicated its

latent power. Broken up by the inequalities of its site, the city hardly gives evidence, at a casual glance from a distance, of its importance. Its houses, too, are crowded, and the impression is hardly given that the city contains over 400,000 inhabitants. Later in the day the General and Mrs. Grant landed in the city, and made an investigation of its leading points of interest. The Castle of San Martino, celebrated for its magnificent view and for the grandeur of its architecture and the beauty of its works of art; the summer



NAPLES, FROM THE VOMERO.

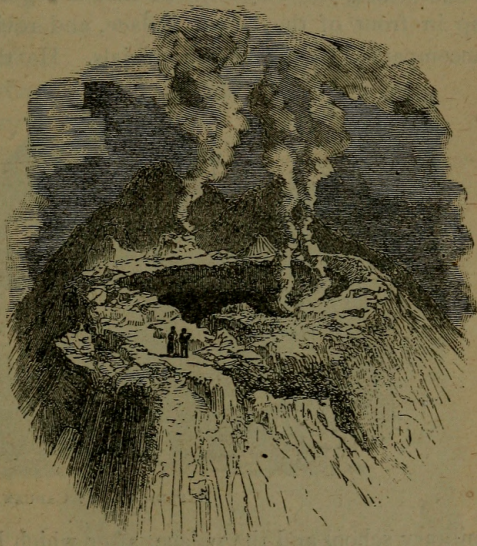
palace where royalty passes a brief season during the warm weather of each year, and other places, were visited, but they all seemed tame and uninteresting while the looming form of Vesuvius seemed to be inviting them to sights of a more desirable kind.

On the morning of the 18th of December, the party started for the burning mountain. After a drive along the shore of the bay, which was enlivened by the persistency with which hundreds of beggars clamored for pennies, the ascent was begun. Owing to the lateness of the start, the party did not reach the crater, but had to rest content with a stay at a House of Refuge, near the observatory,



where they spent a pleasant hour enjoying the remarkably fine view of Capri and Ischia, and of the plain beneath them studded with twenty villages and lined with snow-clad hills, which looked beautifully clear and white in the gorgeous sunlight of an Italian sky. They returned in the evening to the Vandalia. On Wednesday the General and family, accompanied by Consul Duncan, Commander Robeson, Lieuts. Strong, Rush and Miller, and Engineer Baird, visited the ancient city

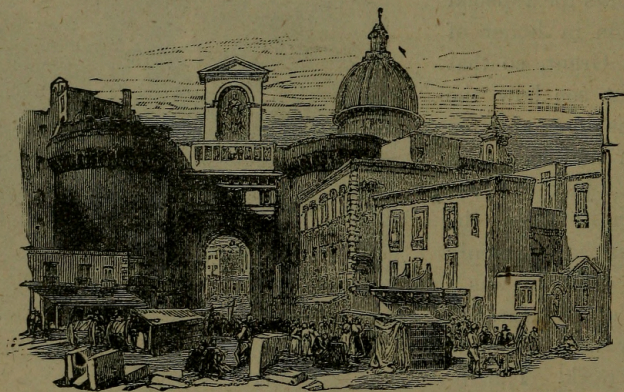
of Pompeii. The Government had made arrangements for a special excavation in honor of General Grant, so that he might see how the work was done, and see some of the curiosities recovered just as they were placed when the city was so suddenly ruined. The day was a little cold, but clear, and in every way favorable for the work. The director of the excavations received General Grant and party, and conducted them to the



THE CRATER OF ÆTNA.

principal points of interest. Two hours were spent by the visitors, wandering among the ruins of the ancient and memorable city, and at every step something of interest was seen. The workmen then proceeded to dig out a chamber of a buried house, and discovered some fragments of a table made of wood and bronze. The workmanship was very curious and elaborate, and was examined with interest by the whole party. The next object of interest discovered was a loaf of bread wrapped neatly in a cloth, and perfectly distinguishable. Many other curious and inter-

esting articles were found, and inspected. The party of visitors all expressed themselves as highly pleased with their visit to the ruins of the ancient city. They returned in the evening, and on Thursday Ex-President Grant returned the official visits of the civil and military authorities of the city. As he left the Vandalia the yards were manned and a salute fired, the salute being returned by the Italian Admiral. General Grant then landed, and was met by the General commanding the District, who had a regiment of Bersaglieri drawn up in front of the Royal Palace, and reviewed by General Grant, accompanied by the Italian officials. He then visited the naval and



NAPLES, PORTA CAPUANA.

military school and the palace, after which he attended a reception at the house of Consul Duncan. During these visits General Grant was accompanied by his son, Commander Robeson, Lieuts. Rush and Miller, and a splendid retinue of Italian officials. The whole tone of the reception accorded him was stately. The General expressed himself with the greatest admiration of the Italian troops.

Again embarking on the Vandalia, a run was made to Palermo, which lovely city was reached on the 23rd of December. The principal city of the populous province of the same name, it contains about 200,000 people. Situated on the north side of the island of Sicily, and upon a deep bay, whose ends are accentuated by Capes Gallo and Zaffrana, it presents a picturesque appearance, which is heightened



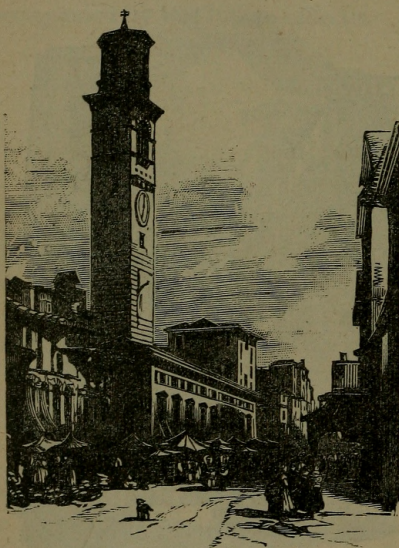
by the beauty of the city itself, whose many spires, domes and towers give it an unusually handsome and imposing air. A visit to the city was made and thoroughly enjoyed, notwithstanding the somewhat inclement weather. Christmas day was duly celebrated on board ship. Tricked out with bright leaves and flowers, the narrow ward room became a pretty and appropriate scene for a Christmas dinner, which, presided over by Mrs. Grant, proved a delightful occasion. Later in the evening the party went on deck, where they found the neighboring shipping ablaze with fire works. Cheer after cheer for General Grant went up from each from the crews of English and German vessels in port, who, having honored Christmas to their hearts' content, were showing that in their good nature they still had time to think of and do honor to the distinguished representative of the Anglo-Saxon race, who, thousands of miles away from home, was enjoying a well-deserved rest under the starry sky of Italy.

Leaving Palermo, the keel of the *Vandalia* again began cleaving the waters of the Mediterranean. Stromboli was passed in a mist, which obscured its frowning form; then the rock of Scylla was seen, and the vessel entered the straits of Messina, where the towns of Messina and Reggio were seen as the vessel ploughed its way past them *en route* for Malta. *Ætna* was in view for hours, but proved somewhat of a disappointment, partly on account of the total absence of any eruptive indications, and partly because its extreme breadth at the base—more than thirty miles—destroys the effect of its great height, the slopes on all sides to the summit, nearly eleven thousand feet above, being very gentle.



STRADA ST. GIOVANNI, VALETTA.

Malta was reached on the afternoon of the 28th of December. This historic island, whose Scriptural associations alone make it an object of interest if not veneration to the traveler, is one huge rock, upon whose substratum of sandstone the energetic natives have here and there deposited a thin layer of soil, which enables them to raise crops of certain descriptions. Of an irregular oval shape, the island is devoid of either lake or river, forest or brushwood, and during the summer months and in the autumn, when the enervating sirocco prevails, it is anything but a pleasant or healthy resort. During the winter months, however, the climate is delightful. So our travelers found it, and after the cold weather which somewhat marred their enjoyment at other Mediterranean stopping places, the bracing and clear atmosphere of Valetta proved delightful. This city, which is one of the most important positions held by England, as necessary to her retention of power in India, is of course a garrison town, and consequently a pleasant stopping place for those whose acquaintance or credentials give them the entry to the society of the place. On arriving opposite



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the port, to which honor was paid by the *Vandalia* with a salute of twenty-one guns, His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh, second son of Queen Victoria and the commander of the ironclad *Sultan*, which lay next to the American man-of-war, was seen to approach. He was received at the gangway by Captain Robeson, who invited him on board. General Grant and the Prince were soon engaged in cheerful conversation upon the current topics of the day, in the course of which His Royal Highness invited the General and



family to pay him a visit and take lunch with him at his Palace of San Antonio, situated a few miles out of Valetta. At the palace the General and party were received by the Duke and Duchess, who made their brief stay a very pleasant one. A visit to the Governor-General of Malta—an English General, Van Straubeuzee by name—was made later, and, on leaving, the General was honored with a salute of twenty-one guns. In the evening the General and his party again visited the palace, where the General's health was proposed, eliciting a pleasant response. At the opera, which was attended later on, a hearty ovation was accorded to the Ex-President. On his entrance, the company sang the "Star-Spangled Banner," at the conclusion of which the audience joined in a hearty cheer for the hero of Appomattox. And so it proved all through the sojourn at Malta. The garrison people, of all ranks, vied with each other in the showering of attentions upon their American visitors, and when the party was prepared for departure, they did so with regret that they were unable to remain and accept the invitations which had accumulated on their hands. On the 31st of December the *Vandalia* weighed anchor, and, leaving behind them the genial friends they had met in Valetta, the party prepared for the change of scene which was in store for them—a change which was to substitute the civilization they had been accustomed to all their lives for one of a totally different description. The *Vandalia's* bowsprit pointed eastward, and her next anchorage was to be in the Mediterranean opposite the Egyptian city of Alexandria.

